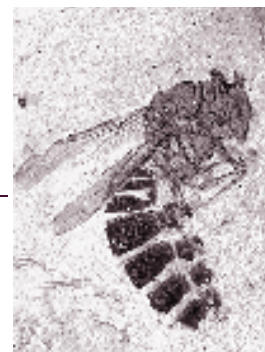


Doris Kneuer

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument



Fossil wasp from the 34 million-year-old Florissant Formation. Specimen placed in collection 10 years ago. Serves as logo for Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.

In recent years, the monument museum collections have been used in many ways—research, interpretation, training, and association sales.

Exhibits of plant and insect fossils have been designed and installed in the visitor center. These illustrate what the finely detailed fossils look like, and what they teach us about paleoenvironments.

Displays at the Hornbek Homestead, a small early ranching site, illustrate the lifestyle during the Homestead period. Many school groups are given tours of this house, and twice a year an open house is held with living history demonstrations.

Scientific Research has been conducted, both in-house and via loans. Specific requests recently have been to view water beetles (both fossil and modern), rose and other flower fossils, fish fossils, and modern butterflies. Specific institutions requesting loans were the University of Colorado, the Colorado School of Mines, the University of Chicago, and the National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian).

Archival Research has included the use of historic scientific notes, photos, and maps of Florissant Fossil Beds as a reference for current excavations. Historic plat maps and family photographs have been requested as part of a new book on the history of the Florissant area. Copies of historic photographs have been made for descendants of local families.

The collections are used annually for training summer interns and seasonal rangers in both paleontology and curatorial methods.

Replicas of one plant and one insect fossil have been made for sale in the cooperating association book shop. Post cards and bookmarks have been printed using high quality photographs of the insect and leaf fossils as well as the petrified trees.

Doris Kneuer is a volunteer curator who has taken on full responsibility for the monument's museum collections for the last six years.

Lisbet Collins Bailey and Erica Schoenhals Toland

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park preserves America's West Coast maritime heritage. Its collections include a fleet of National Historic Landmark vessels at Hyde Street Pier and the West Coast's largest library of maritime history. Over half of the items in the collection, though, are archival material, including 250,000 photographs, 120,000 vessel plans, and 1,500 linear feet of textual records.

Preparation of archival collections for use is labor-intensive, involving arrangement, preservation, and description. The park's Historic Documents Department first prepares a finding aid, which presents information about the creator and the functions that brought the records into being, provides a description of the scope and nature of the records, and creates a folder title list that outlines the physical arrangement of the materials. The finding aid is then indexed for multiple points of access, such as vessel names, vessel types, names, subjects, and document types. These index terms are then compiled into a master index.

Archival records are kept because they contain information of continuing usefulness for researchers, scholars, artists, film makers, genealogists, historians, model-makers, and legal assistants who access the collections by phone, fax, mail, and in-person.

Less obvious, but even more important than the direct use of archives, is the indirect use of the information that users take away. Researchers do more than take notes; they transform copy prints of historic photographs, large format photocopies of architectural drawings, and microfilm copies of sea journals into books, articles, exhibits, models, films, TV shows, calendars, postcards, and posters. These creative products then take on a life of their own, informing, entertaining, educating, and delighting millions of indirect users around the world.

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park's archival materials were featured in a handsome book of West Coast maritime history titled, *A Pacific Legacy*, and other photos were reproduced in a stunning portfolio of historic images titled, *San Francisco Views*. Research has resulted

in CD-ROMs, litigation details, scholarly papers, family histories, environmental and hazardous waste reports, TV commercials—even graphic designs for Harley Davidson motorcycle gas tanks!

Park staff use archival collections for visual aids and exhibits. An interpretive video celebrating the 100th birthday of one of the park's larger artifacts, the 1895 schooner *C.A. Thayer*, was recently produced from archival film of her last voyage. Park rangers use material in slide shows and talks. The park produces educational, informational, and promotional material (lesson plans, brochures, ship plans packages, tour guides, posters, postcards, etc.), and the park's supporting association, the National Maritime Museum Association, often features entire collections in its semi-annual history journal, *Sea Letter*. Still another important indirect use is the production of internal planning documents, like historic structure reports and preservation guides, that aid in the management of the historic fleet.

Although access and use of the archival collections presently proceed through personal contact, the park plans to make descriptions of the collections available through an online biblio-

graphic network, and a World Wide Web home page for the park is almost complete. As a wider audience becomes aware of the park's collections, their use (and value) will increase and diversify.

For research questions, please contact the Maritime Library reference staff at 415-556-9870 (Fax 415-556-3540), or mail your queries to: Reference Staff, Maritime Museum Library, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, Bldg. E, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA 94123. For more general information, contact the Public Affairs office, at the same address.

Lisbet Collins Bailey manages the park's museum collection of textual records, including manuscripts, business records, and personal papers.

Erica Schoenhals Toland manages and references the park's museum collection of architectural drawings, charts, and maps.

For general questions concerning the Historic Documents Department, contact the archivists at 415-556-9876; cc:Mail address is SAFR_Historic_Documents, Internet address is SAFR_Historic_Documents@NPS.gov.

Jennifer S. Wolk

Two Hundred and Sixteen Square Feet of Treasure

Denali National Park and Preserve (DENA) was created in 1980, when the original Mount McKinley National Park, established in 1917, was expanded. When most people think of Denali, the things that come to mind are Mount McKinley and the "big five"—moose, caribou, wolf, Dall sheep, and grizzly bear. About 30% will see "The Mountain." Only a handful will be able to see how it all intertwines to define this young and complex park. Researchers, historians, interpreters, and even superintendents have come to appreciate the hidden treasures in the 12'x18' museum storage room.

The Interpretive Division uses copies of the historic photograph collection for seasonal programs and exhibits. The eminent figure files provide information and anecdotes not found elsewhere. Management has used several documents from the archives to deal with current issues. For instance, National Park Service ownership of the park road was supported by a collection of documents from the archives.

Denali has a multitude of researchers continually working within its boundaries. The Long-Term Ecological Monitoring program has brought

in even more. Wildlife observations, weather, and human activities mentioned in official reports, private journals, and published stories have assisted researchers with background information. In most cases, the archives have been used more than the prepared specimens, although the prepared specimens have come in handy in training field personnel dealing with plants and small mammals.

It is important for researchers to take an active part in museum collections. In Denali's case, a lot of items were collected with minimal information. Researchers have been beneficial in adding and updating items already cataloged. As our collection continues to expand and gaps are filled in, the more our user group will expand. And the more people that are aware of what is in the collection and what it has to offer, the more complete information the collection will have.

Museum Technician Jennifer Wolk has been working at Denali for 10 years, starting her seventh in this position, and she is the first permanent museum technician in the park. She can be reached at 907-683-9536 or at P.O. Box 9, Denali Park, AK 99755. Her Internet address is jennifer_wolk@NPS.gov or she is on the cc:Mail list.